

## Two new species of *Pseudolathra* Casey from Borneo (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae)

Guillaume de ROUGEMONT

Honorary research associate, Oxford University Museum of Natural History,  
Parks Rd, Oxford OX1 3PW, England.

E-mail: gderougemont@hotmail.co.uk

**Two new species of *Pseudolathra* Casey from Borneo (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae).** - Two new staphilinid beetles from Borneo are described and illustrated: *Pseudolathra borneensis* n. sp. and *P. lanceolatus* n. sp.

**Keywords:** Taxonomy - new species - Coleoptera - Borneo - Sabah - Malaysia.

### INTRODUCTION

Members of the genus *Pseudolathra* occur in the Holarctic and Oriental regions. A recent much needed revision of the oriental species by Assing (2012, 2013) and a paper by Li & Solodovnikov (2013) have resulted in a total of 27 species known from central and eastern Asia, and enabled me to determine the following two new species found amongst the abundant collections of insects recently made for the Oxford University Museum of Natural History in North Borneo. Only one other species, the widespread SE Asian *P. pulchellus* (Kr.), was known from Borneo. The holotypes of both the new species are kept in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History; paratypes also in the author's collection and in the Natural History Museum, Geneva.

### METHODS

Descriptions and measurements were made using a VMZ 1x-4x binocular dissecting microscope with a mm eyepiece scale graticule. A difference between the figures of aedoeagi provided by Assing (2012) and those in this article is that for Assing's paper the aedoeagi were cleared and photographed in transmitted light using a compound microscope, whereas the photographs below were made in reflected light using a Leica M165C binocular microscope linked to a Leica DFC 490 digital camera and photomontage software which gives greater depth of field but does not show many internal structures.

Abbreviations used on data labels and in the text of this article are as follows:

B.R.I. Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum valley, Sabah.

MHNG Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève.

OUMNH Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Oxford.

RCL Rougemont collection, London

*Pseudolathra borneensis* n. sp.

Figs 1, 1a-c

HOLOTYPE: OUMNH, ♂: MALAYSIA, Sabah, Lahad Datu, Ulu Segama For Res, Coupe 81 logging area, 04°58.660'N 117°53.410'E, iii.2005, FIT 2° Forest.

PARATYPES: 1♂ & 2♀♀, MALAYSIA: Sabah, Lahad Datu, Ulu Segama For Res, Danum Valley Forest Centre, 04°57.9'N 117°48.1'E, 200 m alt, xi.2005 FIT, coll Mann, Slade & Villanueva, Slade & Villanueva OUMNH-2005-051 (in OUMNH). – 2♀♀, MALAYSIA, Borneo, Sabah, Ulu Segama Forest Reserve, Danum Valley Conservation area ca. 10 km from Danum Valley F.C., Borneo Rainforest (sic.) Lodge area Plot 3, 12.III.2004, F.I.Trap, ca. N05°02'E 117°45.55', Leg. E. Slade & J. Villanueva, OUMNH-2005-062, E. Slade colln. Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH) (in OUMNH). – 1♂ & 2♀♀, MALAYSIA, Borneo, Sabah, Ulu Segama Forest Reserve, Danum Valley Conservation area, ca. 10 km from Danum Valley F.C., Borneo Rainforest Lodge area, 8.IV.2004, F.I.Trap, Plot 3, ca. 05°02' N 117°45.55'E, Leg. E. Slade & J. Villanueva OUMNH-2005-062, E. Slade colln. Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH) 9N (in OUMNH, 1 paratype in RCL, 1 paratype in MHNG). – 2♂♂, SABAH, Danum Valley, B.R.L. f.i.t., 14-16.II.2007, G. de Rougemont (in RCL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SEEN: 1 ex.: Malaysia, Sabah, Tawau, 11-17.x.2012, 4.66N 117.6E, 100 m Alt, Coll. C.L. Gray, SAFE project area, F.I.T Riparian forest, strip in oil palm, OUMNH -213-056 (in OUMNH).

TAXONOMY: This new species belongs to the *nigerrima* group sensu Assing 2012 according to its colour, puncturation and conformation of the aedeagus.

## DESCRIPTION

Length of body: 8-9 mm; length of fore-body: 4.2 mm.

Head, pronotum and abdomen black, the posterior margins of abdominal tergites narrowly and obscurely reddish; elytra light or dark brown, the posterior third to half more or less strongly infusate.

Habitus (fore-body): Fig. 1. Labrum and antennae dark brown; legs dark testaceous.

Head transverse, 4/5ths wider than long, the vertex shiny, with several large setiferous punctures near eyes, a continuous transverse row of smaller punctures along base, and irregularly scattered micro-punctures on entire disc, sparser in the middle. Eyes large and salient, twice as long as temples measured to posterior angle of head. Antennae about 2.9 mm long, antennomeres 5-9 with very narrow bases, club-shaped.

Pronotum only slightly transverse, very slightly broader than head, with an inner discal series of about 5 punctures, an outer series of 4 larger punctures, and 3-4 marginal punctures; sparse scattered micro-punctures exceedingly small, scarcely visible.

Elytra much longer and broader than pronotum, with an entire sub-marginal carina and two rows of about 10 discal punctures each, those of outer row coarser than inner row, in addition to a juxta-sutural row of small punctures and a row of about 10 punctures on declivous lateral surfaces. Pro-tarsi broadly dilated in both sexes.

Abdomen a little narrower than elytra, finely and not very densely punctuate.

Male: abdominal sternite VII (Fig. 1b) with a small, shallow apical emargination; sternite VIII (Fig. 1c) with a deep narrow emargination. Aedeagus (Fig. 1a) characteristic, the dorsal blade very broad, apically sub-truncate, about as long as ventral blade, the latter with a conspicuous inwardly curving apical process on either side, and a sub-apical process bearing two ventral and two lateral spines.

REMARKS: *P. borneensis* n. sp. most closely resembles *P. transversicollis* Assing from Thailand and *P. separanda* Assing from north India, especially in the colour of the elytra, but is a smaller insect than either of those and with a characteristic aedoeagus.

*Pseudolathra lanceolata* n. sp.

Figs 2, 2a-c

HOLOTYPE (OUMNH): ♂ MALAYSIA: Sabah, Lahad Datu, Ulu Segama For. Res., Danum Valley Forest Centre, 04°57.9'N 117°48.1'E, 200 m alt., XI.2005, 1° Forest FIT, coll. Slade & Villanueva) OUMNH-2006-051.

PARATYPES: 1 ♂ & 3 ♀♀, *ibid.* (1 paratype each in OUMNH, RCL and MHNG). – 1 ♀, MALAYSIA, Borneo, Sabah, Ulu Segama Forest Reserve, Ulu Segama Forest Reserve, Danum Valley Forest Reserve, Danum Valley Conservation Area, ca. 10 km from Danum Valley F.C., Borneo Rainforest Lodge area Plot 3. 12.III.2004, 05°02.68'N 117°45.55'E, Leg. E. Slade + J. Villanueva, OUMNH-2005-062, E. Slade colln., Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH) (in OUMNH). – 1 ♀, MALAYSIA, Borneo, Sabah, Ulu Segama Forest Reserve, Danum Valley Conservation area, ca. 21 km from Danum Valley F.C., near Malua Biodiversity Exp., 30.III.2005, F.I. Trap, secondary forest ca. 05°73'N 117°37.61'E, Malua Plot 1, Leg. E. Slade + J. Villanueva, OUMNH-2005-062, E. Slade colln. Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH) (in OUMNH). – 1 ♂, MALAYSIA, Sabah, Lahad Datu, Ulu Segama For Res, Coupe 81 logging area, 04°58.660'N 117°53.410'E, iii.2005 FIT 2° Forest, coll. E. Slade + J. Villanueva (in RCL). – 1 ♂ & 1 ex. (abdomen missing), SABAH, Danum Valley, B.R.L. f.i.t., 14-16.II.2007, G. de Rougemont (in RCL).

TAXONOMY: This new species also appears to belong to the *nigerrima* group according to its colour, size and puncturation, but has an aberrant type of aedoeagus.

DESCRIPTION

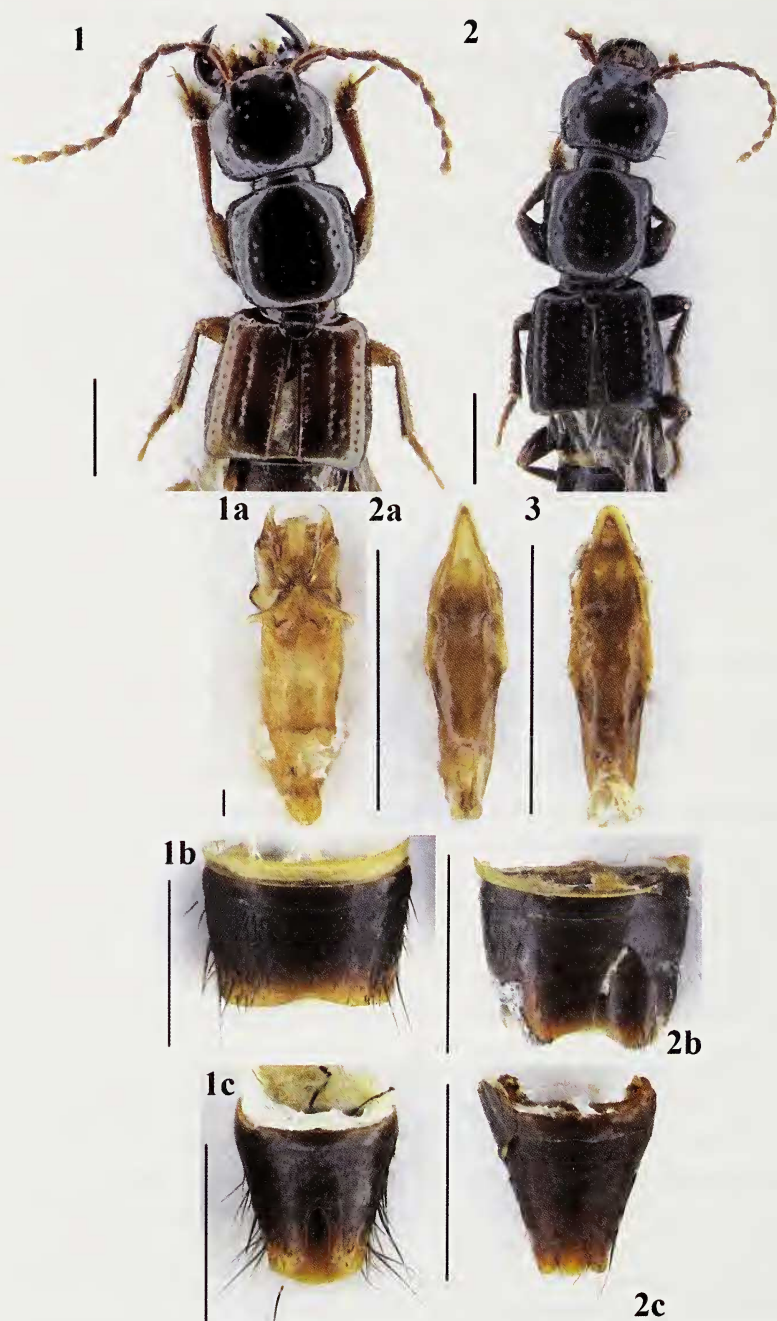
Length of body: 7-7.6 mm; length of fore-body: 3.8 mm.

Body entirely black; palpi, antennae and tarsi dark testaceous; femora and tibiae infusate, the femora more strongly so.

Habitus (fore-body): Fig. 2. Head transverse, 4/5ths wider than long; vertex shiny, with 3-4 large setiferous punctures near inner anterior margin of eyes, another on margin of eye posteriorly, another behind eye, and a continuous row of small punctures along basal margin. Eyes very large, more than twice as long as temples measured from posterior margin of eye to posterior angles of head. Antennae about 2.4 mm long.

Pronotum scarcely elongate, 4/5ths longer and about as broad as head, with a discal series of 5 large punctures, an outer series of 3 punctures slightly divergent posteriorly to inner series, 3 punctures near lateral margin in anterior half of pronotum, besides a few small punctures on lateral margin itself. Elytra longer and broader than pronotum, with a juxta-sutural series of 8-10 small punctures, an inner discal series of 8-10 larger punctures, an outer series of 9-10 punctures, and a series of 7-8 punctures on lateral declivity of elytra. Hind wings fully developed. Abdomen much narrower than elytra, shiny, sparsely punctate.

Male: abdominal sternite VII (Fig. 2b) with a fairly large broad apical emargination, its lateral angles salient and furnished apically with a number of small black bristles; sternite VIII (Fig. 2c) with a deep, narrow sub-parallel-sided emargination extending to half the length of sternite; aedoeagus (Fig. 2a) with a long lanceolate dorsal blade of the median lobe, the ventral blade short, bi-lobed.



FIGS 1-2

*Pseudolathra borneensis* (1) fore-body. (1a) Aedeagus in ventral view. (1b) Male sternite VII. (1c) Male sternite VIII. *Pseudolathra lanceolata* (2) fore-body. (2a) Aedeagus in ventral view. (2b) Male sternite VII. (2c) Male sternite VIII. (3) *Pseudolathra*, species indet. cf. *lanceolata*, aedeagus in ventral view. Scale bars: 1 mm, except 1a = 0.1 mm.

REMARKS: This new species superficially most closely resembles *P. nigerrima*, but is on average a little smaller, of the same colour but with darker legs, and differs moreover in its more transverse head, the puncturation of the pronotum, and the completely different aedeagus.

*Pseudolathra* sp.

Fig. 3

REMARKS: A single male bearing the same data as the holotype of *P. lanceolata* n. sp. is indistinguishable externally from that species, except perhaps by the very slightly smaller emargination of the male sternite VIII, but has a different aedeagus: shorter and with a much less acute apex of the dorsal blade (Fig. 3). This alone makes it look like a distinct species, but in the absence of any other material it is not here described as such. The specimen is housed in the OUMNH and bears the following determination label: "Pseudolathra cf. lanceolata n.sp., aedeagus different! Det. 2013 G. de Rougemont".

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank James Hogan of the OUMNH for producing the plates of photographs that illustrate this paper. Specimens from the Danum Valley in the OUMNH were collected with the permission of the Danum Valley Management Committee and the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department under permit no. UPE Ruj. UPE 40/200.1959 issued to Dr. Eleanor Slade, and project no. 224 under the Royal Society SEARRP.

REFERENCES

- ASSING, V. 2012. The *Pseudolathra* species of the East Palearctic and the Oriental regions (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae). *Beiträge zur Entomologie, Keltern* 62: 299-330.
- ASSING, V. 2013. A revision of *Pseudolathra* species of the East Palearctic and Oriental regions II. Six new species and additional records, with notes on some New World species (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae). *Linzer Biologische Beiträge* 45(1): 205-227.
- ASSING, V. 2013. A revision of Palearctic and Oriental *Pseudolathra* III. Seven new species and additional records (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae). *Entomologische Blätter und Coleoptera* 109: 271-284.
- LI, X. Y., SOLODOVNIKOV, A. & ZHOU, H. Z. 2013. The genus *Pseudolathra* Casey in China: new species and new records (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae). *Zookeys* 356: 1-9.